



DECISION MEMO
BULLARDS BAR FIRE RESTORATION PROJECT
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
FEATHER RIVER RANGER DISTRICT
YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND

The Bullard Fire started about 4:05 p.m., August 27, 2010, at Bullards Bar Dan and Marysville Road, 3 miles east of Dobbins. The fire burned 1,307 acres through August 31, when it was 100% contained. Much of the fire burned at high severity causing severe damage to the NFS Cottage Creek Campground as well as habitat destruction within a California spotted owl protected activity center (PAC). Our goal is to restore recreational opportunities in the incident area, restore wildlife habitat, and protect areas from high severity burning in future wildfire incidents. The project area is located in parts of Mount Diablo Meridian, California, T. 18 N., R. 7 E., sections 24 and 26 (Yuba County).

DECISION

I have decided to:

- implement mastication, hand-cutting, piling, and pile burning to reduce fuels in the Bullard Fire area (Figure 1), including Cottage Creek Campground, along the route of the proposed new National Forest System (NFS) trail, and within California spotted owl PAC YU026 (approximately 90 acres). This action includes the use of prescribed fire to treat and retreat any and all acres within T. 18 N., R. 7 E., section 26, E 1/2 (approximately 320 acres);
- construct approximately 2.5 miles of new NFS trail within T. 18 N., R. 7 E., section 26, E 1/2; and
- restore pine (ponderosa and sugar) and incense cedar in burned forest openings by preparing site through mastication before and after planting.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(11) *post-fire rehabilitation activities, not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds), to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire;* and 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(1) *construction and reconstruction of trails*. These categories of action(s) are applicable because each are activities carried out routinely by the agency.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – Federally listed threatened, California red-legged frog. The proposed actions will have no effect on the California red-legged frog based on all past surveys having no detections and no suitable habitat in the treatments area. Forest Service sensitive species, California spotted owl. The proposed actions may affect individuals but not likely lead to a trend toward listing for the California spotted owl. The proposed actions will benefit habitat within a protected activity center and home range core area for the California spotted owl.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – The application of best management practices (BMP) will promote proper drainage and soil stabilization to limit potential for sedimentation and compliance with the Clean Water Act.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – The project area is not located in a Congressionally designated area.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – The project area is not located in an inventoried roadless area or potential wilderness areas.
- Research natural areas – None are present.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – No protected areas have been identified within the project area. If new cultural resources are discovered during the course of operations, the operation will stop until the new discoveries have been evaluated by the District Archaeologist.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – The project area has no effect on heritage resources as no cultural resources were identified in the area. If new cultural resources are discovered during the course of operations, the operation will stop until the new discoveries have been evaluated by the District Archaeologist.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Plumas National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions on June 1, 2017, and updated periodically during the analysis.

We received and answered one question from Lassen Forest Preservation group July 22 and 24, 2017.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Plumas National Forest Land Management Plan as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) supplemental EIS and ROD.



This project meets the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and implementing procedures outlined in the Region 5 Programmatic Agreement 2013.

The project will have no effect to any threatened, endangered or candidate species and thereby complies with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

This project is not subject to appeal (36 CFR 215) or objection (36 CFR 218).

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This action can be implemented immediately.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Clay R. Davis, District Planner, Feather River Ranger District, 875 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965; telephone (530) 532-8940; or email clayrdavis@fs.fed.us.

KATHERINE CARPENTER
Acting District Ranger

Date

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